

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Curtin on 5/7/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 17-22 have been canceled.

Claims 9-10, formerly withdrawn, have now been rejoined and are allowed:

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic medium includes granular magnetic particles on a tape.

10. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic medium includes granular magnetic particles on a disk.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims are allowable over the closest prior art to Klemmer (US 6849349) and Ravelosona-Ramasitera et al. (US 6,605,321). The references fail to teach or suggest the claimed method, as argued by applicant in the response filed 4/3/08. The references fail to teach suggest or otherwise render obvious the claimed method requiring the use of Hg⁺ or In⁺ ions having an acceleration voltage of 10-100 keV to irradiate a magnetic medium.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Holly Rickman/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-1514. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Holly Rickman/
Primary Examiner
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